

POLITICAL MEDDLING PROBE

Special counsel charges 13 Russians

Indictment alleges an elaborate scheme to influence 2016 election, but no involvement by Trump campaign

By Sharon LaFraniere
The New York Times

WASHINGTON » The special counsel investigating Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election charged 13 Russian nationals and three Russian organizations Friday with illegally trying to disrupt the U.S. political process, in-

cluding efforts designed to boost the presidential candidacy of Donald Trump and hurt that of his opponent, Hillary Clinton.

The indictment represents the first charges by the special counsel, Robert Mueller, for meddling in the 2016 presidential election — the fundamental crime that he was assigned to investigate.

In a 37-page indictment filed in U.S. District Court, Mueller said the 13 individuals have conspired since 2014 to violate laws that prohibit foreigners from spending money to influence federal elections in the United States.

The indictment charges that the foreigners falsely posed as U.S. citizens, stole identities and

otherwise engaged in fraud and deceit in an effort to influence the U.S. political process, including the 2016 presidential race.

"The nature of the scheme was the defendants took extraordinary steps to make it appear that they were ordinary American political activists," Rod J. Rosenstein

CHARGES » PAGE 17



Rosenstein

LUNAR NEW YEAR



JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thousands of visitors to the Asian Garden Mall in Westminster gather around lion dancers and feed them money after watching 250,000 firecrackers explode on Friday. The Vietnamese American community is celebrating the Lunar New Year this weekend.

HOWLIN' GOOD TIME

Firecrackers explode in Little Saigon, kicking off Tet celebration in Orange County

By Chris Haire
chaire@seng.com
@CJHaire on Twitter

WESTMINSTER » Smoke mushroomed above the Asian Garden Mall, little kids covered their ears from the deafening

noise, and thousands recorded video with their smartphones to capture the machine-gun fire of the annual Firecracker Celebration in honor of Tet, the Lunar New Year.

The firecracker show on Friday, the first day of the Year of

the Dog, was meant to scare off spirits and bring good luck and fortune in the coming year.

"It's supposed to be loud," said Nam Ho, co-owner of Imperial Health and Beauty, a store adjacent to the Asian Garden Mall in the heart of Little Saigon.

And it was — 250,000-plus firecrackers made sure of that.

Ho, like the other business owners along Bolsa Avenue, set off firecrackers in front of his store in addition to those exploding away in the mall's park-

TET » PAGE 11

MEXICO

Magnitude 7.2 quake slams southern Pacific coast

A powerful earthquake has shaken south and central Mexico, causing people to flee buildings in the country's capital. PAGE 18

TEACHER REMEMBERED

Services set for local woman who broke color barrier

The life of Barbara Lawrence Hill, who became O.C.'s first black teacher in 1962, will be celebrated today. PAGE 3

LOCAL NEWS

New animal shelter coming

Irvine will replace its aging shelter with a new \$25.9 million facility by 2021 that's expected to be about 60 percent larger. PAGE 3

HOOPS SCENE

NBA All-Stars come home this weekend

Six players with various Southland roots return to the city that lives and breathes the game

By Ryan Kartje
rkartje@seng.com
@Ryan_Kartje on Twitter

LOS ANGELES » They congregate on sacred Compton blacktop, deep in the heart of South Central, and on sun-drenched, beachside courts, in the shadow of towering palms. They gather at Gladys Park, tucked between concrete walls off skid row and

HOOPS » PAGE 8



PHOTO BY SCOTT VARLEY

Nick Ansom drives under the basket during a game on the basketball courts at Venice Beach on Sunday.

FLORIDA SHOOTING

FBI says it failed to probe tip on suspect last month

Agency told he had access to guns and may be plotting attack

By Kelli Kennedy, Curt Anderson and Tamara Lush
The Associated Press

PARKLAND, FLA. » The FBI received a tip last month that the suspect in the Florida school shooting had a "desire to kill" and access to guns and could be plotting an attack, but agents failed to investigate, the agency said Friday. Florida Gov. Rick Scott called for the FBI's director to resign because of the missteps.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the shooting that killed 17

FBI » PAGE 16



PYEONGCHANG WINTER OLYMPICS

WHAT TO WATCH

KNBC-TV, Channel 4

Prime-time coverage today features men's giant slalom, short track, men's ski jumping and women's skeleton. In giant slalom, American Ted Ligety will defend his 2014 gold medal. Katie Uhlaender is trying to overcome injury, illness and tragedy to get a place on the podium in women's skeleton but started slow in the event's first runs.

THE MEDAL LEADERS

| | | | | TOTAL |
|---------|---|---|---|-------|
| NORWAY | 6 | 8 | 5 | 19 |
| GERMANY | 9 | 2 | 4 | 15 |
| NETHER. | 6 | 5 | 2 | 13 |
| CANADA | 4 | 5 | 4 | 13 |
| AUSTRIA | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| USA | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 |

WEATHER

71/52 | 77/46
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